CERTIFICATION

The site has been cleaned to the standards established by the community. Those cleanup standards have been approved by both the U.S. and Ohio Environmental Protection Agencies as being protective of human health and the environment.

Fernald Preserve

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cleanup standards established by the community, neighbors, regulators, contractors, and the Department of Energy have been met

The Fernald property recently underwent an environmental cleanup that lasted more than 10 years. Because Fernald was once the site of a uranium-processing facility, the cleanup required the establishment of remediation standards for site soils and for the groundwater that underlies the site and surrounding area. Fernald's neighbors and nearby communities were involved in establishing the remediation standards, following a lengthy study and public discussion.

Subsequently, the site has been cleaned to the standards established by the community. Those cleanup standards have been approved by both the U.S. and Ohio Environmental Protection Agencies as being protective of human health and the environment.

The aquifer cleanup is an ongoing process and is discussed in a separate brochure. The soil cleanup involved extensive excavation and required that all soils on the Fernald property be certified as meeting the final site remediation standards. The soil-certification process was established in cooperation with federal and state regulatory agencies and required regulatory approval.

Certifying that Fernald's soils met the final remediation levels involved extensive sampling and analysis. Soils were collected and analyzed from defined areas, called "certification units." This effort was used to define areas of soil contamination and the depth to which the contamination extended. Once these contamination areas were defined, the excavation of the contaminated soils began. Following excavation, all areas of each certification unit were scanned with beta/gamma detectors to estimate the residual pattern of uranium, radium, and thorium prior to beginning the soil-certification process. These scans, performed in real time, ensured that excavation activities reduced uranium, radium, and thorium contamination to a level that would meet the certification requirements.

Not all site soils required excavation prior to certification; however, soils from the former production and waste pit areas required extensive excavation to remove the contamination. In addition to real-time scans, following the collection of soil samples from a number of locations within a certification unit, laboratory analysis was conducted to determine if the soils met the final remediation levels or if additional excavation was required. When all certification units within a remediation area met the certification requirements, a certification report was prepared and submitted to the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency. In total, 55 certification reports were submitted and approved. These reports are available for review at the Public Environmental Information Center.

After an area received certification, ecological restoration would begin. Fernald's ecological restoration utilized native plants and grasses that were identified in an 1819 land survey of the area. The remediated and restored site contains 140 acres of wetlands and open water, 400 acres of forests and riparian woodlots, and 360 acres of grasslands.